

PATENT

C. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of providing dynamic network pricing data, said method comprising:
determining, by a network pricing computer, an amount of traffic on a computer network, wherein the determining includes requesting traffic data from one or more network devices and receiving the requested traffic data in response to the requests;
calculating, by the network pricing computer, a network usage price in response to the determination; and
applying the network usage price to a network session.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method as described in claim 2 wherein the network devices are selected from the group consisting of routers, switches, and computer systems.
4. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
identifying a client computer system corresponding to the network session; and
sending the network usage price to the client computer system.
5. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
recording a session start time and the network usage price for the network session;
identifying a session stop time for the network session;

Docket No. AUS920010384US1

Page 5 of 18

Atty Ref. No. 1021

Grande, et. al. - 09/891,337

PATENT

determining an elapsed session time; and
calculating a session billing amount corresponding to the
elapsed session time and the network usage price.

6. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method as described in claim 5 further comprising:
storing one or more session billing amounts for one or more users;
calculating an invoice total for each of the users based on each user's corresponding session billing amounts; and preparing an invoice for each of the users, the invoice including each user's invoice total.
7. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method as described in claim 5 further comprising:
writing a high priority header to one or more packets originating from a computer system corresponding to the network session between the session start time and the session stop time.
8. (Currently Amended) An information handling system comprising:
one or more processors;
a memory accessible by the processors;
a network interface connecting the information handling system to a computer network; and
a network pricing tool to provide dynamic network pricing data, the network pricing tool including:
means for determining an amount of traffic on a computer network, wherein the means for determining includes means for requesting traffic data from one or more network devices and means

PATENT

for receiving the requested traffic data in response to the requests;
means for calculating a network usage price in response to the determination; and
means for applying the network usage price to a network session.

9. (Cancelled)
10. (Original) The information handling system as described in claim 9 wherein the network devices are selected from the group consisting of routers, switches, and computer systems.
11. (Original) The information handling system as described in claim 8 further comprising:
means for identifying a client computer system corresponding to the network session; and
means for sending the network usage price to the client computer system.
12. (Original) The information handling system as described in claim 8 further comprising:
means for recording a session start time and the network usage price for the network session;
means for identifying a session stop time for the network session;
means for determining an elapsed session time; and
means for calculating a session billing amount corresponding to the elapsed session time and the network usage price.

PATENT

13. (Original) The information handling system as described in claim 12 further comprising:
means for writing a high priority header to one or more packets originating from a computer system corresponding to the network session between the session start time and the session stop time.
14. (Currently Amended) A computer program product stored on a computer operable media, the computer operable media containing instructions for execution by a computer, which, when executed by the computer, cause the computer to implement a method for providing dynamic network pricing, said computer program product method comprising:
means for determining an amount of traffic on a computer network, wherein the determining includes requesting traffic data from one or more network devices and receiving the requested traffic data in response to the requests;
means for calculating a network usage price in response to the determination; and
means for applying the network usage price to a network session.
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 15 wherein the network devices are selected from the group consisting of routers, switches, and computer systems.
17. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as described in claim 14 further comprising: wherein the method further comprises:

PATENT

~~means for~~ identifying a client computer system corresponding to the network session; and
~~means for~~ sending the network usage price to the client computer system.

18. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as described in claim 14 ~~further comprising:~~ wherein the method further comprises:

~~means for~~ recording a session start time and the network usage price for the network session;
~~means for~~ identifying a session stop time for the network session;
~~means for~~ determining an elapsed session time; and
~~means for~~ calculating a session billing amount corresponding to the elapsed session time and the network usage price.

19. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as described in claim 18 ~~further comprising:~~ wherein the method further comprises:

~~means for~~ storing one or more session billing amounts for one or more users;
~~means for~~ calculating an invoice total for each of the users based on each user's corresponding session billing amounts; and
~~means for~~ preparing an invoice for each of the users, the invoice including each user's invoice total.

20. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as described in claim 18 ~~further comprising:~~ wherein the method further comprises:

PATENT

~~means for~~ writing a high priority header to one or more
packets originating from a computer system
corresponding to the network session between the
session start time and the session stop time.